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REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-15, and 17-19 have been rejected. Claim 17 has been amended. New Claim 20 has been added. Claims 1, 4-15, and 17-20 are, therefore, presently pending. Claims 18-19 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested

The Examiner's comments together with the cited references have been carefully studied. Favorable reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants traverse the Examiner's restriction requirement. The claims to the inkjet recording element and the corresponding method are, in essence, to the same invention.

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

This rejection is believed moot, in view of the amendment of claim 17.

Claims 1, 4, 6-9, 11-15, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura et al.

In addition, Claims 1 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Chu et al.

In addition, Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura et al. and further in view of Becker.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. The present claims require that both the image-receiving layer and the base layer comprise stabilizer particles for preventing light fade. This is not remotely taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

In contrast to the present invention, Kitamura et al. require an ultraviolet ray absorber, but the antioxidant is considered optional. Comparing, in the Kitamura et al. patent, Table 1 (page 16) showing results for image-receiving layers with a UV absorber but no antioxidant (Examples I-1 to I-11) to Table 2 (page 22) showing results for image-receiving layers with both a UV absorber and an antioxidant, it is apparent that the fading rates are somewhat better with the addition of

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the antioxidant, but that most of the improvement is due to the UV absorber. In contrast, in the present invention, by having the antioxidant in both the image-receiving layer and the base layer, there is a relatively dramatic improvement in fading rates and density loss without any UV absorber. See the present specification for improvements of more than 50% in both Table 1 for ambient light fade, and improvements of around 50% for density loss in both Table 2 and 3. The use in the present invention of stabilizer particles (essentially without UV absorber) in both a base layer and the image-receiving layer, would appear to provide dye fade and dye density improvement that, based on the results in Kitamura et al., is comparable to the use of both stabilizer and UV absorber only in an image receiving layer. Avoiding the amounts of UV absorber used in Kitamura et al. provides a significant advantage, since UV absorbers are somewhat colored species that can degrade and cause discoloration or yellowing.

According to claim 1, the base layer is not an image-receiving layer. The image-receiving layer is intended to hold the imaging ink near the coating surface. A base layer is typically used primarily to act as an additional sump for absorption of the solvent for the ink and is not designed to hold the ink. As evident by Applicant's examples, the composition of the base layer (page 20) is significantly different from the composition of the image-receiving layer (page 21). Moreover, as stated on pages 21-22, the base layer has a dry thickness of 25 μm whereas the image-receiving layer gave a dry thickness of 8 μm . Clearly, in view of the thickness of the layers, Applicants' base layer is not a second image-receiving layer, since it would not be desirable to have the dye image at a depth of 25 to 70 microns. It is submitted that the skilled artisan would not find it obvious to place the given stabilizer particles in the base layer in addition to the image-receiving layer or layers.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 16 this rejection is traversed for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. The addition of the core-shell particles is a secondary feature of the invention and does not relate to the main purpose of the invention which is to prevent light fade or provide increased image density. Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 5, and 10, the addition of the calendering is a secondary feature of the invention and does not relate to the main purpose of the invention which is to prevent light fade.

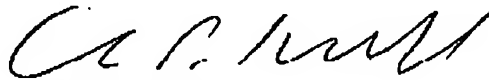
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It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the Office Action and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue is therefore earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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